



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 1, 2015

Time: Minutes recorded by Helen Edwards

Minutes approved on: October 6, 2015

Interpreters: Shauna Jehle, Trisha Yachimski

CART: No CART reporter present

Call to Order:

a. Board Chairperson Amanda Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:25 pm in the Cafeteria at RISD.

- **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

b. In Attendance: Amanda Montgomery, Danielle Loughlin, Nora Meah, Lindsey Medeiros, Jane Newkirk

c. **Excused:** Joseph Fischgrund, Jonathan Henner and Heather Niedbala

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Danielle Loughlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 2, 2015; second by Jane Newkirk. Motion approved with all in favor.
- Nora Meah made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 4, 2015; second by Jane Newkirk. Motion approved with all in favor.

Board of Trustees Training Session

- Continued development of Board of Trustees Policy Handbook
 - Chairperson Montgomery welcomed Maureen Cotter, Board Trainer, back to the Board meeting.
 - The Board worked in small groups to review drafts that were worked on by individual members in the continued development of the Board Policies Handbook.
- Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees
 - Chairperson Montgomery is holding her report till the October 6, 2015 meeting
 - Back to School staff orientation was held for 2 days. New staff are on board. Chairperson Montgomery attended the first day of orientation to formally welcome and encourage the faculty.
 - Joseph Fischgrund had good feedback on the Golf Tournament which was held on August 25, 2015. Attendance was lower, but an overall great event that is the primary funding for the athletics program.
- Report of the Director
 - Director Maguire Heath reported that staff returned to school on August 26, 2015.

- Our Summer PD institute was three days this year. Nancy Cloud, professor from RI College with expertise in dual language programming and research presented a workshop to the staff on Bilingualism. Staff and faculty then followed up on how to integrate these newly learned principles into our RISDeaf program.
- Our new hires included: an Audio Technician, Janitor, Secondary Math teacher, Curriculum and Instruction Specialist, Transition Coordinator and IT Manager. We are still in the process of finding a School Bus Driver, Elementary teacher with special ed certification and Substitute teachers.
- Director Maguire Heath introduced Valerie Houser, the newly hired Curriculum & Instruction “Specialist/Teacher of the Deaf to the Board. Ms. Houser has been here a couple of times in recent years training our staff in *Responsive Classroom*. She has been with the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for 30 years and recently retired. Director Maguire Heath stated that with Ms. Houser at the school we will also have more administrative coverage which will allow Director Maguire Heath to attend more RIDE meetings and provide additional support to districts.
- Our current census is now at 63 students and we have two elementary referrals pending.
- Our 125th Gala will be taking place on April 29, 2016 at the Omni Hotel. We will be doing a lot of PR work. We are having banners made to announce our 125 years of service to Rhode Island which are being funded by Friends. Also promotional magnets have been provided to all staff and will be handed out to all Board members. If tickets for the Gala are purchased before December 24, 2015 it will include free parking. The tickets will be \$125 each. We are hoping to give parents free tickets and staff reduced rates.
- The gym renovations have been completed with includes a new logo.
- Bright Stars has awarded RISD \$5,000 as a Rising Star school to honor our new Bright Stars Preschool rating of 4 stars. This money is a restricted fund. This money will be used to make playground improvements for safety. The Board commends the preschool team for their hard work.
- Report of the Finance Director
 - Budget/Financial Report
 - Assistant Director Amy Vincenzi was excused from the meeting tonight. She did submit a draft Budget Report for the Board to review.
- Policy Item
 - *Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy and Guidelines – First Reading*
- A motion was made by Chairperson Montgomery to adjourn at 8:46 pm.